

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061498  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-05 PRS-01  
SS-15 /065 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MR. CULLUMS  
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----191805Z 011812 /41

R 190339Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 061498

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 18

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 18,  
1977:

Q. WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION WITH REGARD  
TO THE PLO, IN THE WAKE OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND  
THE SERIES OF EVENTS THAT HAPPENED? I KNOW WE HAD A LONG  
DISCUSSION ON THIS YESTERDAY. IT WAS A LITTLE BIT BITTER  
TOO. I'M SORRY I MISSED THIS.

A. NO BITTERNESS ON MY PART. (LAUGHTER)

Q. NO, NO. I ENJOYED IT TOO, ON THE AIR.

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Q. TELL ME ABOUT -- WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION?

A. NO CHANGE.

Q. NO CHANGE IN THE POLICY TOWARDS THE PLO OF ANY KIND?

A. THAT'S CORRECT.

Q. IS THERE A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE?

A. NO.

Q. IS THERE ANY INDICATION OF GREATER RECEPTIVITY ON  
THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS THE PLO?

A. THE PRESIDENT HAD THE LAST WORD ON THAT LAST NIGHT  
WITH DICK HOTLETT. I CAN'T ADD TO THAT.

Q. WAS THAT -- I DIDN'T HEAR THAT.

Q. CBS.

Q. IS THAT AVAILABLE?

-

Q. YES.

Q. IS THAT THE LAST WORD?

A. THAT'S THE LAST WORD. (LAUGHTER.)

Q. IS THERE ANY INDICATION, IS THERE ANY PLANNTNG, TO  
INVITE PLO REPRESENTATIVES TO COME TO WASHINGTON?

A. NO.

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Q. NO. SO THERE'S NO PLANNING; THERE'S NO THOUGHT BEING  
GIVEN TO IT?

A. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT PLANNING ANYTHING; BUT, IN  
GENERAL, TO YOUR QUESTION OF CHANGE IN ATTITUDE, NO.

Q. NO CHANGE IN ATTITUDE? NO CHANGE?

A. BE REASSURED, JOE.

2. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN  
CBS REPORTER RICHARD C. HOTTELET AND PRESIDENT CARTER,  
AS BROADCAST ON CBS-TV A.M. NEWS, MARCH 18:

HOTTELET: DOES THIS SUGGEST THAT THERE'LL BE FURTHER  
CONTACTS BETWEEN THE U.S. OFFICIALLY AND THE PLO?

CARTER: WELL I DOUBT THAT, NOT UNTIL THE PLO CHANGES  
THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL. OUR COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL  
WAS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. BUT I HAVE  
GOOD HOPES THAT THE PALESTINIANS AND THE ARAB NATIONS CAN

GET TOGETHER AMONG THEMSELVES FIRST OF ALL, AND THAT WHEN  
THEY AND, - WHEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL GET TO  
GENEVA THIS YEAR, THAT THERE WILL BE AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR  
PROGRESS. BUT FOR ME TO TRY TO SPELL OUT EXACTLY WHAT  
THEIR RELATIONSHIP MIGHT BE IN THE FUTURE WOULD BE  
PRESUMPTUOUS. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO THAT.

VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIEFING MATERIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 18 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAR  
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